

## Dry Wall v. Brick Wall

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South Africans have in many ways been conditioned into believing that building with bricks and mortar is the only way to build if you want quality and that alternative building methods give a lesser product and are to be frowned upon. That is definitely no longer the case and one of the alternative construction methods that has been perfected to give a classy finish is dry walling.

There are a number of companies that supply materials that can be used and choosing the correct materials for your application is all important. It is to be noted that many homeowners have had disappointing results with dry walling because the wrong materials and specification have been used in construction or because incorrect construction methods have been used. The big advantage that dry walls have over brick walls is that they are lightweight and thus do not need any foundations or strong support structures when building on a suspended slab or floor structure and there is no mess. Construction is quick and drywalls can be easily erected by a professional contractor or a DIY enthusiast. Drywalls are also easy and quick to remove without mess or dust as is the case with brick walls. You can choose straight or curved walls, add character with arches or recesses. There is no problem with fixing items like pictures or mirrors as there are suitable fasteners readily available from various suppliers. The finish is smooth and apart from having to fill in the joints with fibre tape and Crestone, (or a similar product), it is ready for painting. Dry walls can be just as soundproof as brick walls, are an effective fire barrier, and have good insulation qualities. Framing can be either in timber or using lightweight metal studs. Dry walls are thinner than brick walls and thus have an advantage where space is a problem. The speed and ease of construction coupled with the cost of materials and labour make dry walling a good financial option when compared to conventional brickwork. There are, however, a definite number of do's and don'ts when it comes to drywall construction and it is most certainly not just a case of buying a pile of materials and knocking up a wall. This information is available from a number of suppliers. Dry walling is a viable alternative to brick walls and its versatility makes it a good option to consider. If you require further information, please contact us.